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November 8, 2010

RE: Comment of Coastal Conservation Association Maryland on the Draft
Total Maximum Daily Load ("TMDL") for the Chesapeake Bay.
Docket No. EPA-R03-OW-2010-0736

Coastal Conservation Association Maryland ("CCA Maryland") is pleased to submit these comments on the Draft Total Maximum Daily Load ("TMDL") for the Chesapeake Bay.

CCA Maryland is a non-profit, grassroots organization that prides itself on its efforts to influence laws and policies to promote sustainable fisheries for recreational anglers. We are an active and long-time participant in fisheries management in the state, Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic coastal waters; working closely and cooperatively with governmental entities and other stakeholder groups to support science-based conservation and management efforts. CCA Maryland is also a proud member of the Choose Clean Water Coalition. Our state organization is part of Coastal Conservation Association ("CCA"), the leading marine recreational fishing advocacy group in the United States. Originally formed in 1977, CCA has grown to represent more than 100,000 members in seventeen state chapters, including Maryland, Virginia and New York. The Board of Directors of CCA has separately voted to join the Choose Clean Water Coalition and its application to the organization is currently pending.

CCA Maryland supports the purpose and intent of the TMDL and commends the Obama Administration for placing such an emphasis on addressing the critical needs of the Chesapeake Bay. We appreciate and understand that a healthy Bay is necessary to support a strong recreational fishery and that many of the actions required to achieve this goal will occur far from the waters of the Chesapeake itself.

Our organization supports and echoes the general concerns and comments of the Clean Water Coalition submitted in response to the Draft TMDL. While the state of Maryland has historically led the Bay states in its efforts to address the problems facing the Bay, certain action and inaction by other watershed states has often frustrated that underlying purpose. We applaud the EPA's efforts to ensure

Acting for More Fish, Crabs, and Oysters

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that all watershed states take the necessary steps in their own jurisdictions that are required to meet the Clean Water Act's mandates. The simple fact that approximately 40% of the Bay's freshwater flow comes from Pennsylvania and New York necessitates strong federal involvement. The Final TMDL issued for the Bay should ensure that all states undertake those efforts necessary to meet the CWA's requirements.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide this comment.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tony Friedrich", written in a cursive style.

Tony Friedrich
Executive Director